

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 15, 19, 26 and 29 are amended. Claim 1 is amended to include some of the subject matter of claims 2 and 6 and this subject matter was deleted from claims 2 and 6. Claim 15 is amended to include some of the subject matter of claim 19 and this subject matter was deleted from claim 19. Claim 26 is amended to include some of the subject matter of claim 29 and this subject matter was deleted from claim 29.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3-4, and 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "A method for the return of items supplied by a business establishment, comprising: (a) developing a list of items to be returned . . . (b) presenting said list of items for processing . . . (c) identifying a confirmation of said items on said list that are returnable and/or any of the items that are not returnable; wherein said return policy is stored locally to a computing device; and wherein said return policy includes a dynamic rule that a business value condition must be satisfied." Claim 1 is directed to statutory subject matter because the claimed invention is in the computer arts. The return policy is stored locally to a computing device and includes a dynamic rule. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable under §101. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of claim 1 and passage to allowance.

Claims 3-4 and 6-11 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, claims 3-4 and 6-11 are also patentable under §101. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of claims 3-4 and 6-11 and passage to allowance.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,085,172 to Junger ("Junger"). Applicants traverse this rejection because Junger fails to teach each and every claim element. For example, Junger fails to teach a dynamic rule that a business value condition must be satisfied.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein said return policy includes a dynamic rule that a business value condition must be satisfied." Applicants have carefully reviewed Junger and have not found any such feature. By contrast, Junger teaches compliance with static return requirements and a system that must be configured with such static return requirements. Applicants have invented a more flexible and adaptable approach. (Junger, col. 6 line 31, col. 6

lines 56-57, col. 6 lines 62-63, and col. 8 lines 42-44). Therefore, claim 1 is patentable under §102(e). Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of claim 1 and passage to allowance.

Claims 2-14 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and, thus, inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-14 are also patentable under §102(e). Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of claims 2-14 and passage to allowance.

Claim 15 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein said return policy includes a dynamic rule that a business value condition must be satisfied." For the same reasons as claim 1, claim 15 is patentable under §102(e). Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of claim 15 and passage to allowance.

Claims 16-25 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and, thus, inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, claims 16-25 are also patentable under §102(e). Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of claims 16-25 and passage to allowance.

Claim 26 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein said policy includes a dynamic rule that a business value condition must be satisfied." For the same reasons as claim 1, claim 26 is patentable under §102(e). Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of claim 26 and passage to allowance.

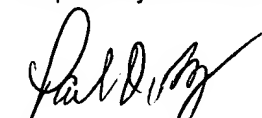
Claims 27-34 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and, thus, inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, claims 27-34 are also patentable under §102(e). Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of claims 27-34 and passage to allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the present application are patentably distinguishable over the references cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the claims be reconsidered and passed to allowance.

Date

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Respectfully submitted,



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